

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (amended) A fastening device for a first ~~two~~-component member serving as a lid and a second component member serving as a cylindrical container having an open end portion ~~members~~ comprising:

said [a] first component member, being the lid for said open end portion of said second component member, including an even number of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral wall of said lid and each having a predetermined lead angle at least two protruded portions each having a predetermined lead angle; and

said [a] second component member including an even number of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member and each having a predetermined lead angle at least two protruded portions,

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, at least one of the threads protruded portions of said second component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads protruded portions of said first component member,

wherein when said first and second component members are moved closer from a first relative position to a second relative position, said threads of the first and second component members protruded portions are engaged with each other, and after said threads of both of the component members engage, said threads are elastically deformed by each other by moving said threads at a distance, and said first and second component members are fixed in the second position while maintaining their engaged relationship by the frictional engagement of the threads protruded portions differing in said lead angle.

2-5 (canceled)

6. (amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1 [4], wherein each of said first and second component members includes an even number of threads, and said threads ~~protruded portions~~ having a different lead angle are provided alternately on one of said component members.

7. (amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1 [3], wherein when the threads on the inner wall of said lid are engaged with the threads formed at the open end portion of said cylindrical container, the inner ceiling surface of said lid is brought into contact with the surface of said open end portion of the container defining the opening.

8–10 (canceled)

11. (amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads ~~protruded portions~~ of said first component member and the different lead angle of the at least one of the threads ~~protruded portions~~ of said second component member is from about 1° to about 2°.

12. (amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads ~~protruded portions~~ of said first component member and the different lead angle of the at least one of the threads ~~protruded portions~~ of said second component member is at least about 1°.

13. (amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads ~~protruded portions~~ of said first component member and the different lead angle of the at least one of the threads ~~protruded portions~~ of said second component member is less than about 2°.

14. (amended) The fastening device for two component members according to claim 1, wherein the difference between the lead angle of the threads ~~protruded portions~~ of said first

component member and the different lead angle of the at least one of the threads ~~protruded portions~~ of said second component member is about 1.5°.

15–20 (canceled)

21. (amended) A method for fastening a first component member serving as a lid and a second component member serving as a cylindrical container having an open end portion, said first component member being a lid for said open end portion, said first component member including an even number of threads of a female screw formed on an inner peripheral wall of said lid and each ~~at least one protruded portion~~ having a predetermined lead angle, and said second component member including an even number of threads of a male screw formed on an outer peripheral wall of said open end portion so as to engage with the threads of said first component member ~~at least one protruded portion having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the protruded portion of said first component member~~

said first and second component members being formed of an elastic material, at least one of the threads of said second component member having a different lead angle from the lead angle of the threads of said first component member, the fastening method comprising the steps of:

moving said first and second component members to a first relative position where said threads ~~protruded portions~~ of the component members are engaged with each other; and

moving said first and second component members from the first relative position to a second relative position so that said threads ~~protruded portions~~ are elastically deformed as a result of their engagement with each other,

whereby said first and second component members are fastened to each other by the frictional engagement of said threads ~~protruded portions~~.